AMENDMENT

Please amend Claim 8. Claim 8 as amended appears below:

C1

8. (amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the source of poly ADP-ribose is biotinylated NAD+, and the determination of poly ADP-ribose content involves streptavidin-based detection of biotin.

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending. Claim 8 has been amended to correct obvious errors. Attached hereto is a sheet titled, "Version With markings to Show Changes Made" which depicts the changes made to the present application by the current amendment.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Office Action mailed December 9, 2002 restricts claims 1-37 between 11 inventive groups as follows:

Group I: Claim 1, drawn to a method of screening for a bioactive agent capable of binding to tankyrase H;

Group II: Claims 2-3, drawn to a method of screening for agents that are capable of interfering with the binding of tankyrase H and p21;

Group III: Claims 4-5 and 7, drawn to a method of screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating the activity of tankyrase H;

Group IV: Claim 6, drawn to a method of diagnosing cancer by determining the activity of tankyrase H;

Group V: Claim 9, drawn to a method of treating an individual with a cell cycle related disorder by administering an inhibitor of tankyrase H;

Group VI: Claims 11-19, drawn to a recombinant nucleic that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to SEQ ID NO:1 or 2 and encodes a protein that binds to p21; such a recombinant nucleic acid having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO:1 or 2; a recombinant nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:3 or 4; an expression vector comprising such recombinant nucleic acids; a host cell comprising such recombinant nucleic acids; a host cell comprising such an expression vector; a process for producing cell cycle protein; and a process for producing cell cycle protein further comprising recovering cell cycle protein;

Group VII: Claims 20-23, drawn to a recombinant cell cycle protein encoded by the nucleic acid of Group VI; a recombinant polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 85% identity to SEQ ID NO:3 or 4; such a recombinant polypeptide that binds p21;

Group VIII: Claims 25-26, drawn to an antibody that specifically binds to a recombinant polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 85% identity to SEQ ID NO:3 or 4; such an antibody that is a monoclonal antibody;

Group IX: Claims 27-30, drawn to a method of screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating PARP activity;

Group X: Claims 31-34, drawn to a method of screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating proliferation; such a method of inhibiting proliferation in a tumor cell; such a method of inhibiting proliferation using a small molecule; such a method of inhibiting proliferation using a peptide;

Group XI: Claims 35-37, drawn to a method of inhibiting growth of a tumor cell; such a method of inhibiting growth of a tumor cell using a small molecule; such a method of inhibiting growth of a tumor cell using an antisense oligonucleotide.

Preliminarily, Applicants point out that Claims 8 and 10 were omitted in the restriction.

In response to the restriction, Applicants hereby elect Group IX, claims 27-30, with traverse. Applicants submit that Group III (Claims 4,5 and 7) and Claim 8 should be examined together with Group IX. Claims 4 and 5 are directed to methods of screening for a bioactive

agent that modulates the activity of tankyrase H, and involve adding a candidate agent to a cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding tankyrase H and determining the effect of the agent on the cell. Claims 7 and 8 are also directed to methods of screening for a bioactive agent that modulates the activity of tankyrase H, and involve adding a candidate bioactive agent to a mixture of recombinant tankyrase H protein, poly ADP-ribose source, and tankyrase H substrate, and determining the poly ADP-ribose content of the substrate. Claims 27-30 are drawn to methods of screening for a candidate agent capable of modulating PARP activity, and involve providing tankyrase H protein, candidate bioactive agent, and poly ADP-ribose source, and determining the amount of poly ADP-ribose associated with tankyrase H.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 27-30 commonly involve the measurement of tankyrase H activity. Further, Claims 7, 8, and 27-30 involve the measurement of PARP activity in particular. Applicants submit that a literature search for the subject matter of Group IX would be largely coextensive with that for Group III and Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement, and examination of Claim 8 and the claims of Group III together with those of elected Group IX.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 1/9/03

FOR: Robin M. Silva (REG NO 39,754)
Reg. No. 38,304
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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

8. (amended) The method of Claim 7 [~~25~~], wherein the source of poly ADP-ribose is biotinylated [~~NAD~~] NAD+, and the determination of poly ADP-ribose content involves streptavidin-based detection [~~streptavidin-based detection~~] of biotin.